

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BEIRUT 07998 111542Z

43

ACTION EUR-25

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P R 111500Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8935

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

UNCLAS BEIRUT 7998

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, LE, UR

SUBJECT: BREZHNEV LETTER TO FRANGIE LEAKS INTO BEIRUT PRESS

1. SUMMARY. LEADING INDEPENDENT ARABIC DAILY AN-NAHAR, QUOTING "RELIABLE AND INFORMED SOURCES", TODAY SUMMARIZES CONTENTS OF BREZHNEV LETTER TO PRESIDENT FRANGIE, AS WELL AS CONTENTS OF BREZHNEV LETTER TO ARAFAT. END SUMMARY.

2. BANNERING "BREZHNEV TO FRANGIE: WE ARE READY TO OFFER ANY KIND OF SUPPORT AGAINST ISRAEL. SENIOR SOVIET OFFICIAL MAY VISIT LEBANON SOON. KREMLIN LEADER SENDS 'IMPORTANT' MESSAGE TO ARAFAT," AN-NAHAR QUOTES "INFORMED SOURCES" AS SAYING THAT BREZHNEV'S LETTER TO FRANGIE IS SIGNIFICANT BECAUSE (A) IT IS FIRST LETTER FROM BREZHNEV TO FRANGIE AND AS SUCH REPRESENTS 'NEW STAGE' IN SOVIET-LEBANESE RELATIONS AND (B) ITS CONTENTS CONFIRM SOVIET UNION'S COMPLETE SUPPORT FOR LEBANON'S POSITION.

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PAGE 02 BEIRUT 07998 111542Z

3. AN-NAHAR GOES ON TO QUOTE "RELIABLE AND INFORMED SOURCES" AS SAYING LETTER MAKES FOLLOWING BASIC POINTS:
(A) IT CONFIRMS SOVIET UNION'S ABSOLUTE CONCERN FOR LEBANON'S INDEPENDENCE AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY;
(B) IT ANNOUNCES THAT SOVIET UNION IS READY TO OFFER ANY KIND OF SUPPORT AND ASSISTANCE TO LEBANON AND OTHER ARAB STATES TO STRENGTHEN DEFENSIVE CAPABILITY AND ABILITY TO FACE ISRAELI ATTACKS AND LIBERATE THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES; (C) IT CONFIRMS THAT ISRAEL MUST BEAR COMPLETE RESPONSIBILITY FOR CONTINUATION OF ITS AGGRESSIVE POLICY, WHICH EXPOSES MIDEAST PEACE EFFORTS TO GREAT DANGER; (D) IT SPEAKS OF RIGHTS OF PALESTINIAN PEOPLE AND AGAIN CONFIRMS THAT SOVIET UNION BELIEVES THAT JUST PEACE IN AREA CANNOT BE ACHIEVED UNTIL LEGITIMATE RIGHTS OF PALESTINIAN PEOPLE ARE RESTORED; (E) IT REFERS TO RECENT SOVIET-AMERICAN SUMMIT AND TO ITS FINAL COMMUNIQUE.

4. AN-NAHAR FURTHER QUOTES "INFORMED SOURCES" AS SAYING THERE IS STRONG POSSIBILITY A SENIOR SOVIET OFFICIAL WILL VISIT LEBANON SHORTLY, ALTHOUGH SUCH A VISIT HAS NOT YET BEEN OFFICIALLY DISCUSSED.

5. ON BREZHNEV'S LETTER TO ARAFAT, AN-NAHAR REPORTS THAT SOVIET AMBASSADOR AZIMOV DELIVERED LETTER TO ARAFAT PERSONALLY AND THAT IT IS REPLY TO SECRET LETTER ARAFAT SENT TO BREZHNEV TWO DAYS BEFORE RECENT MOSCOW SUMMIT. AN-NAHAR QUOTES "INFORMED SOURCES" AS DESCRIBING TWO SIGNIFICANT POINTS IN BREZHNEV'S LETTER AS: (A) CONFIRMATION OF SOVIET UNION'S UNLIMITED SUPPORT FOR PALESTINIAN PEOPLE'S STRUGGLE TO REGAIN ITS LEGITIMATE RIGHTS; (B) RENEWAL OF ARAFAT'S INVITATION TO VISIT SOVIET UNION.
GODLEY

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